

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently amended) ~~A composite fabric material for use in making~~  
~~an~~ An article of clothing comprising an article of clothing having an outer, top surface  
when worn by a person and containing a knitted or woven composite fabric material  
having a top, surface an outer, top surface layer when used to make the article of  
clothing, which top, surface that forms at least a part of the outer, top surface of the  
article of clothing, said outer, top surface layer [[has]] of the fabric having a reduced  
color change when contacted with water, and said composite fabric material being a  
multi-layered structure of ~~two layers or more, wherein one of the layers is the top,~~  
~~surface~~ said outer, top surface layer and at least one inner layer that is closer to the  
body of the person than the outer, top surface layer when the article of clothing is worn,  
the outer, top surface layer and is being formed with a yarn made from a synthetic fiber  
that contains from 1% by weight or more to 6% by weight or less of a white pigment  
and/or a core-sheath composite synthetic fiber comprising a core portion that contains  
from 3% by weight or more to 15% by weight or less of a white pigment, and a sheath  
portion containing 2% by weight or less of a white pigment, and the ~~other of the two~~  
~~layers~~ is at least one inner layer, other than the top, surface layer, and is being formed  
with a yarn made from a water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber.

12. (Currently amended) The ~~composite fabric material~~ article of clothing of claim 11, wherein the water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber is a synthetic fiber containing 1% by weight or more of a white pigment.

13. (Currently amended) The ~~composite fabric material~~ article of clothing of claim 11, wherein an elastic fiber is mixed in at least one inner layer of the multi-layered structure.

14. (Currently amended) The ~~composite fabric material~~ article of clothing of claim 11, wherein the water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber satisfies the following numerical values:

$$X \geq 1.6 \text{ and } Y \geq 3$$

wherein  $X = a \times b/100$ , wherein  $a$  = an apparent density = METSUKU (g/100·cm<sup>2</sup>)/thickness (mm) and  $b$  is a water-retention ration (%), and  $Y = c/a$ , wherein  $c$  is a diffusion area (cm<sup>2</sup>).

15. (Currently amended) The ~~composite fabric material~~ article of clothing of claim 11, wherein the water-absorbent and water-diffusing fiber is composed of a fiber component of a W-shaped cross-sectional polyester filament.

16. (Cancelled).